



DELAWARE NUTRIENT MANAGEMENT

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The Delaware Nutrient Management Commission Minutes of the Full Commission Meeting Held February 14, 2006

In attendance:

<i>Commission Members Present</i>	<i>Ex-officios Present</i>
W. Vanderwende, Chair	W. Rohrer
D. Baker	G. Llewellyn
C. Larimore	<i>Others Present</i>
C. Solberg	M. Cooke, DAG
R. Baldwin	K. Foskey
B. Schilling	T. Garrahan
B. O'Neill	D. Absher
T. Keen	S. Kepfer
J. Manchester	K. Maciorowski
E. Lewandowski	C. Roberts
C. West	M. Guo
M. Adkins	P. Sample
<i>Commission Members Absent</i>	M. Pielmeier
C. Fifer	
R. Sterling	

This meeting was properly notified and posted as required by 29 Del. C. §10004 et al.

Minutes:

Call to Order/Welcome:

Chairman B. Vanderwende called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. and welcomed everyone in attendance.

Approval of Minutes:

J. Manchester motioned to approve the January 10, 2006 Full Commission meeting minutes. C. Larimore seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

B. Vanderwende noted the items on the agenda will not be addressed in the order listed.

Discussion and Action Items:

Present Golf Course Research Project (Amy Sprinkle):

Amy Sprinkle, Post Doctorate candidate at the University of Delaware provided a presentation of her master's research project, "Nutrient Management and Golf Courses in Delaware". G. Binford of the University of Delaware was her advisor and the project was completed August 2005.

The golf courses included in the study was conducted were:

- Newark County Club in Newark, Delaware (ten sampling sites)
- Deerfield Golf and Tennis Club just outside of Newark, Delaware (six sampling sites)
- Wild Quail Golf and County Club in Wyoming, Delaware (six sampling sites)

The research was divided into two studies.

- The first part is Golf Course Management Impacting Surface Water Quality:
 - Determine what coming into the golf courses
 - Determine what was on the golf courses
 - Determine what was leaving the golf courses
 - Compare the results to the fertilizer being used to determine if they were having a direct effect on water quality
- The second part is the use of pelletized poultry litter as a fertilizer on multiple fairways
 - Some golf courses in the area used pelletized poultry litter for one season prior to the commencement of the project.
 - There was no real evidence as to how the pelletized poultry litter was responding compared to other fertilizers
- Soil Samples:
 - Were taken biweekly except in the winter months which were taken monthly
 - Were never taken when it was raining
 - Were taken a couple of inches from the top and placed on ice
 - Were brought back to the lab where they were cultured and then sent to Soil Testing
- Testing:
 - 2003 soil samples were tested for nitrate concentration and dissolved phosphorus concentration
 - 2004 soil samples were tested for nitrate, dissolved phosphorus, temperature, dissolved oxygen and specific conductivity
- Nitrate Concentration:
 - Low: 1 mg per liter
 - Moderate: 1 to 3 mg per liter
 - High: Greater than 3 mg per liter
- Dissolved Phosphorus:
 - Low: .05 mg per liter
 - Moderate: .05 to .1 mg per liter
 - High: Great than 01 mg per liter
- Findings of the Research for the Newark County Club:
 - Nitrate Concentration:
 - Most test results were below .5 mg per liter
 - Highest results were what was coming on the course
 - Lowest results were what was leaving the course
 - Dissolved Phosphorus:
 - Most test results were below .1 mg per liter
 - Flow path three spiked-could be because the pond collects a large portion of runoff from the surrounding fairways or most likely because this was the only pond on the course that had not been dredged for the last fifteen year.
- Findings of the Research for the Deerfield Golf and Tennis Club:
 - One stream tested high for nitrate levels
 - There were no spikes in the results
- Wild Quail Golf and County Club

- All results for were high
- Nitrate levels coming in and leaving were similar
- Runoff coming in showed the highest nitrate level
- Details of the Fairway Fertilizer study:
 - 32-5-7 (synthetic fertilizer)
 - Applied at .5 and 1 pound per 1,000 square feet
 - Miloganite (organic fertilizer):
 - Applied at .5 and 1 pound per 1,000 square feet
 - Pelletized Poultry Litter-4-2-3:
 - Applied at .5, 1 and 2 pounds per 1,000 square feet
 - Herbicides and pesticides were also used
 - Pemamax, a growth regulator was also used
 - There were eight treatments, for a total of 24 boxes
 - Each box was 10' by 10'
 - Fertilizer treatments were applied in the Spring and then again in the Fall
 - Test sites were mowed on Monday's at Noon during the growing season from mid-April to mid-October resulting in 24 paper bags a week for sampling
 - After preparation the samples were sent to the lab
- Findings of the Fairway Fertilizer study:
 - The pellets produced the most
 - Day 14 it starts to level off
 - Day 21 it starts to level off
 - Soil samples were pulled at the end of the study, Spring 2005
 - Samples were taken a various depths, zero to a 24"
 - The results show there is no evidence that nitrate reaching down to the soil profile with any of the treatments
 - 32-5-7 is the most economical choice
 - Pelletized poultry is not an economical choice, but it is not a bad choice either
 - Pelletized and 32-5-7 always resulted in the greenest in comparison to the other treatments

B. Rohrer noted the price of pelletized poultry litter has been going down in price.

Review and Act on Distribution Policy for Certification Mailing List:

B. Rohrer referred to the draft 2/7/06 Certification database policy (attached to minutes). B. Rohrer reported of one recommended change under paragraph two, second line. The recommendation is to strike "You are hereby notified that". The sentence will now read, "Any distribution, copying, or disclosure of this information is strictly prohibited." This is the only feedback that B. Rohrer has received.

C. Solberg asked if M. Cooke reviewed the draft. M. Cooke did review the document and the change mention earlier by B Rohrer came from her.

C. Solberg motion to approve the 2/7/06 Certification Database Policy. D. Baker seconded the motion which passed unanimously.

Discuss On-Farm Assessment and Environmental Review Program (OFAER):

B. Rohrer noted he would like feedback from the Commission as to how the OFAER could be used in the Nutrient Management Program (NMP). OFAER is an assessment funded through federal programs and is designed as voluntary and confidential. It provides a nonbiased environmental assessment of the farm. B. Rohrer reported Allen's Family Food participated. All company owned farms were assessed. There were 21

Delaware Farms that participated in OFAER. It would fit within the NMP and its efforts as it relates to large animal feeding operations where there is a need to validate a no discharge status as required by the Concentrated Animal Feeding Operation (CAFO) Regulations. It could be utilized as an alternative to an audit of the program. B. Rohrer noted that all poultry companies will start promoting OFAER.

C. Solberg asked if there is any indication of participation in OFAER. He further asked if they would consider participating if an audit was involved. B. Rohrer stated there is a high desire.

D. Baker stated he did not have any concerns with OFAER, but would like to know more about the program. D. Baker noted recommending the program is beyond the charge and authority of the Commission.

C. Solberg asked B. Rohrer to secure a report from OFAER to determine what they do. B. Rohrer stated he could invite someone to present the information at a Full Commission meeting.

Review and Act on Research and Demonstration Proposals:

D. Baker asked B. Rohrer to provide an update of the Research and Demonstration Proposals. B. Rohrer stated four projects have been approved. There is about \$30,000 remaining. He reported two proposals were tabled. These proposals were:

- Utilization of Poultry Litter as Activated Carbon Sources: \$23,748
- Demonstration of Biological Best Management Practices that Reduce Phosphorus Loading of the Chesapeake Bay: \$25,000 which is dependent on a large grant from the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation (NFWL)

The recommendation of the Planning Subcommittee was not to approve the Biological Litter Treatment project until the NFWF approved funding. It was further clarified that the project was approved at the Planning Subcommittee meeting contingent upon funding. Further recommendation from the Planning Subcommittee is to approve the Utilization of Poultry Litter as Activated Carbon Sources.

M. Cooke noted if the proposal is approved based on funding, the applicant must provide proof of funding to B. Rohrer at which time the funding would be released. If it not approved until funding is received, it would be necessary to bring it back to the Commission.

C. Larimore noted there is not adequate funding to support both proposals. B. Rohrer agreed. In order to have ample funding the transfer that had been discussed must be done. If the Activated Carbon proposal is approved, there would be a balance remaining of \$7,000. A transfer of \$150,000 would come from 2006 nutrient plan reimbursement. It was noted approval for the transfer must be obtained from the Budget Office. If the money is not used it would be lost. Discussion ensued concerning further projects for the utilizing the additional monies from the transfer should it be approved.

D. Baker motioned to approve M. Guo's proposal for Poultry Litter as Activated Carbon Sources. J. Manchester seconded the motion which passed unanimously.

D. Baker motioned to table decision on the proposal for the Targeted Watershed grant proposal until funds are transferred to cover the expense with direction from the Budget Subcommittee.

J. Manchester asked for clarification of the contingencies. D. Baker asked B. Rohrer to provide an explanation of the process to transfer the funds. B. Rohrer referred the Administrator's Report (attached to minutes). B. Rohrer reported funds are encumbered for planning from FY2005 and with planning cost share being low, there is a potential the money will be lost. The overall strategy that the numbers are low, but anticipate the numbers will be high for next year.

In answer to J. Manchester's question, D. Baker stated the only contingency of his motion was capability of securing the funds by shifting the line items. Once the funds are available it will be approved once funding is approved through NFWF and that funding is not utilized for equipment. M. Cooke stated once the transfer of funds has been accomplished it will be brought back to the Commission.

B. Schilling asked if B. Malone had been contacted for his opinion of the project. It was noted that he is participating in the project. B. Malone stated he has seen the data from the Oklahoma study, but has not seen any quantified scientific outcomes.

With a motion on the table, B. Vanderwende asked for a second.

D. Baker stated his motion is to table the proposal until it is determined funding is available and then bring the proposal back to the Commission. C. Solberg seconded the motion which passed unanimously.

Discuss Continuing Education Credit Schedule:

B. Rohrer referred to the University of Delaware schedule (attached to minutes) and noted there are several opportunities between now and May 1, 2006. There is an estimated 900-1,000 who are expiring on May 1, 2006. Many opportunities have been afforded for each individual to acquire the six credits required for recertification.

T. Keen asked who approved the agendas for the workshops. B. Rohrer stated that either he or S. Riggi would approve the agenda and S. Riggi would assign credits. There is a system in place to assign credits, fifty minutes of nutrient management related class time equals one credit. Individuals are instructed to contact S. Riggi and she in return will provide an acceptance letter indicating how many credits were assigned along with a sign-in sheet for the instructor.

C. Larimore stated there is some confusion as it relates to credits, specifically how often they have to obtain them. There is an issue of individuals banking credits and can use them. Another problem they do not know where to go to find out what they can take and when they take something it does not pertain to their certification. It is important for individuals to attend classes that pertain to their certification or profession in order so something could be learned.

B. Rohrer stated credits are good for three years from the date of the class. C. Larimore stated there was some confusion because letters were received by those who do not expire until 5/1/07. B. Rohrer stated the database does not allow carry over.

B. Vanderwende noted a statement may need to be added to the card. This would clarify that credits do not carry over and are only good for three years from the date of the class.

M. Cooke stated as an attorney she has to complete a specified number of continuing education legal credits every two years. The credits must be certified every year. She receives a letter stating the records indicate she has completed a specific number of hours and need to complete a specific number of hours by a specific date. The letter also indicates what credits can be carried over into the next years and which cannot. M. Cooke stated the letter that goes out by nutrient management should include this. C. Larimore stated it should also be stated the credits should be within the appropriate commodity for the individual.

C. Solberg suggested referring this to the Program and Education Subcommittee. T. Keen suggested placing this on the county agents to hold specific meetings. T. Keen does not agree that individual from consulting firms be permitted to host a meeting and further stated those that give instruction should be through the

Extension Office of the University of Delaware. T. Keen stated this needs to be addressed. B. Rohrer noted he has encouraged poultry companies, fertilizer companies and independent consultants to submit their agendas for continuing credit approval if nutrient management is to be discussed. Discussion ensued concerning the topics of the class being pertinent to the certification. B. Malone noted it is very hard to come up with new information for Nutrient Generators.

D. Baker stated some good points were brought up about classes being pertinent. He noted he himself had to complete continuing education and had attended a class that was totally irrelevant to his business but it gave him perspective and understanding about related industry individuals and what they do. It does not hurt a generator to learn what happens to manure after it leaves his operation.

T. Keen suggested that this topic be referred to the Program and Education Subcommittee and report back to the Commission with recommendations. B. Vanderwende assigned continuing education to the Program and Education. B. Rohrer asked what the subcommittee would specifically address. B. Vanderwende stated everything that encompasses the program and would expect a report in April.

Subcommittee Reports:

Planning:

Discussed earlier this evening and nothing additional to report.

Technology:

T. Keen asked members of the Technology Subcommittee to make an effort to attend the meetings. It is disappointing to travel to the meeting and not be able to do anything because there is no quorum. Therefore, he encourages better participation in the future.

T. Keen reported the entire meeting was devoted to draft language for fertilizer handling. B. Rohrer reported a general discussion about winter application of fertilizer and manure. The subcommittee decided to send a few recommendations to the Rules and Regulations Subcommittee to consider draft regulations.

The subcommittee decided to include nitrogen and phosphorus based commercial fertilizer and animal manure. There was a discussion in reference to assuring commercial fertilizer is not applied to impervious surfaces.

Administrator's Report:

Complaints: There are two informal complaints since the January meeting and five open informal complaints.

Budget: Refer to Administrator's Report attached.

Nutrient Management Planning: 377,525 total acreage to date with 54,403 plans (Private) and 10,119 plans (Public) for 2006.

Nutrient Management Relocation: 159,521 total tons relocated to date with 38,139 for 2006.

Certification: 2,162 certifications have been approved. B. O'Neill asked if an individual fails the test can they continue to practice without the certification and how long do they have until they have to retake the test. Regulations require becoming certified before an individual can practice his business. The exam is offered two times a year.

CAFO Update: Refer to Administrator's Report attached.

20% Mandate for 2006: 1,390 were mandated for 2006. There are 259 Non-Respondents.

Education/Outreach/DNMC Annual Report: Refer to Administrator's Report attached. B. Rohrer noted there were over 500 farmers that attended DE Ag Week.

Freedom of Information Act Request: Refer to Administrator's Report attached.

B. Vanderwende added C. Larimore as a member of the Personnel Subcommittee.

Public Comments:

NONE

Next Meeting:

The next meeting of the Full Commission is scheduled for March 14, 2006 at 7:00 pm.

Adjournment:

Chairman Vanderwende adjourned the meeting at 8:30 p.m.

Approved,

W. Vanderwende, Chairman

WRR/mrp